

173-2

# RITTER OAK FLOORING



MANUFACTURED BY  
W.M. RITTER LUMBER CO.  
COLUMBUS, OHIO.

---



WILLETTS  
OAK FLOORING





JUN 22 1928



HOW IT IS MADE  
HOW AND WHERE  
TO USE IT



*Manufactured by*  
W. M. RITTER LUMBER CO.  
COLUMBUS, OHIO





Where Ritter Quality Begins — Some of the splendid timber of the Appalachian Highlands from which we produce millions of feet of Hardwood Flooring.

## FOREWORD

THIS booklet contains information of value to the home owner, the builder, the floor layer, and the retail lumberman.

The different kinds of Oak flooring are described and illustrated, the grading rules are quoted and suggestions given about estimating quantities required, uses for which the various grades are adapted, and methods of laying, scraping, and finishing.

Behind RITTER FLOORING stands the finest hardwood trees in the world, those of the Appalachian hardwood territory, the trained workmen, the up-to-date machinery and equipment, the financial resources, and the reputation of the largest hardwood manufacturing organization in the United States, the

W. M. RITTER LUMBER CO.  
OF COLUMBUS, OHIO

16  
5010  
28  
ID 80-01070





Fine homes of Los Angeles, California, floored with  
Ritter Appalachian Oak Flooring.

## CONTENTS

|                                                                                          | PAGE              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Reasons for the Use of Oak Floors.....                                                   | 6                 |
| How RITTER OAK FLOORING is Made.....                                                     | 10                |
| Distinguishing Qualities and Characteristics of RITTER OAK<br>FLOORING.....              | 10 and 11         |
| Standard Measurements and Method of Counting of Tongued<br>and Grooved Oak Flooring..... | 12                |
| How to Arrive at the Amount of Tongued and Grooved Oak<br>Flooring Required.....         | 12                |
| Oak Flooring Patterns.....                                                               | 15, 16, 17 and 18 |
| Rules for Grading RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                               | 20, 21 and 22     |
| Rules for Grading RITTER MAPLE, BEECH AND BIRCH<br>FLOORING.....                         | 23                |
| Handling RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                                        | 24                |
| Laying RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                                          | 26, 27 and 28     |
| Nailing RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                                         | 26                |
| Scraping RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                                        | 28                |
| Finishing RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                                       | 30 and 31         |
| Caring for RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                                      | 32                |
| Economical Use of RITTER OAK FLOORING.....                                               | 33                |
| Profitable Work for Carpenters.....                                                      | 33                |



## REASONS FOR THE USE OF OAK FLOORS

Elegance and Dignity always make a strong appeal to those of discriminating judgment and artistic tastes.

Most of us like the beautiful so much that we sometimes forego utilitarian considerations, in order to attain it. We are often, to a degree, put to a choice, for the utilitarian is not always the beautiful and the beautiful frequently does not offer a very large measure of service.

It is fortunate, therefore, when the elements of utility and beauty not only are found together, but are present in abundant measure.

The case of hardwood flooring presents a striking example of such a combination.

It is indeed satisfying to one to realize that aside from the impelling desire to have hardwood floors because they are the embodiment of beauty, dignity, and elegance, every reason is in favor of their use when viewed from the standpoint of utility alone. Some of these may be briefly mentioned.

With reasonable care under ordinary conditions they will last a lifetime.

They are cheaper than good carpets.

They are easily kept clean and in good condition.

They are sanitary and hence conducive to good health.

With reasonable care they become more and more beautiful with the mellowness of increasing age.

To the home owner they present the advantage of elegance, economy in maintenance, and durability.

To the landlord they are a most desirable investment as they enable him readily to obtain a higher rental and a better price in case he desires to sell.

They can be installed in any building, old or new.

The public have been educated to an appreciation of and a desire for better things. Today the up-to-date, successful builder realizes that any house or apartment, regardless of cost, is lacking in elegance and refinement, without hardwood floors. This is true even of small cottages and bungalows.



World's largest apartment building, 270 Park Avenue, New York. Apartments rent for \$7,500 to \$15,000 yearly, according to the number of rooms. RITTER PARQUETRY OAK FLOORS throughout.

Architects — Warren and Wetmore. Builders — Thompson-Sterrett.



## **RITTER APPALACHIAN OAK FLOORING**

### **A Grade for Every Purpose**

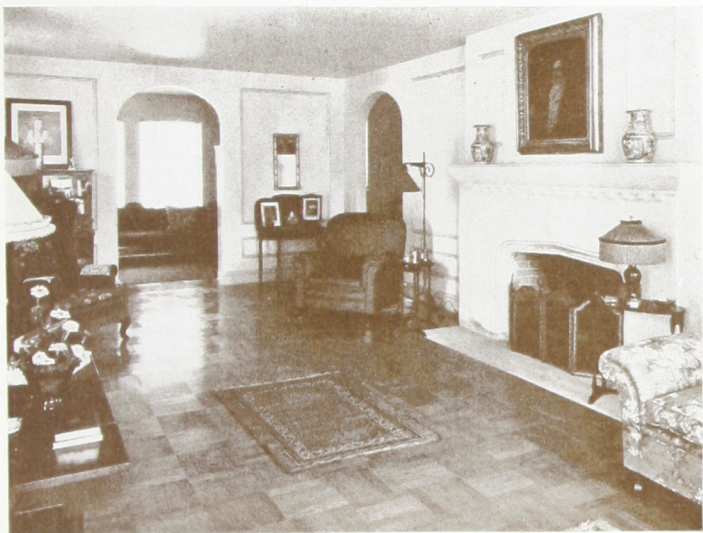
There is a grade of RITTER OAK FLOORING adapted to every character of need. (See page 20.)

In the finest structures, such as our most modern, perfectly appointed homes, where taste and elegance dictate the requirements, nothing could be more desirable than the choicest grades of RITTER OAK FLOORING. The texture and grain and the match in color present a combination of qualities which assure in the natural color or condition of the wood a floor of surpassing beauty, while the intrinsic properties of the wood are such as to make it susceptible to the most satisfactory treatment by staining processes in order to harmonize with any desirable color scheme.

An Oak floor, even in a modest home, adds so much to its attractiveness and value that, from a monetary standpoint alone, it is a mistake to use any other kind of flooring.

Once a person experiences the satisfaction and pleasure of Oak floors in the home, he will not be satisfied with anything else.

For such buildings as factories and warehouses where durability and service are the prime requisites and where defects, such as blemishes in appearance, not affecting materially the utility value, are of minor consideration, grades of hardwood flooring are available admirably adapted to economically meet every such requirement.



Ritter Appalachian Parquetry Oak Flooring, block pattern, in the residence of Mr. Woodburn Potter, Architect, at Overbrook, Pa. Naturally Mr. Potter wanted the best in his own home.



## HOW RITTER OAK FLOORING IS MADE

From our extensive timber holdings in the heart of the Appalachian area, comes the mild textured, fine grained timber from which our Oak flooring is manufactured. Behind RITTER OAK FLOORING stands over a quarter of a century of practical experience and the largest hardwood manufacturing organization in the world.

The logs come from our own forests over our own railroads, and are distributed among our thirteen modern band mills, which are equipped with up-to-date machinery for the efficient manufacture of RITTER OAK FLOORING AND RITTER QUALITY HARDWOOD PRODUCTS.

The boards from which the flooring is made are selected by an experienced grader as they come from the mill and scientifically piled on our drying yards, which cover more than 400 acres, where they remain until thoroughly seasoned.

Twenty batteries of modern dry-kilns in charge of skilled operators, receive the raw material from the air-drying yards. In these kilns the boards are further dried until the moisture content does not exceed  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ , great care being used to see that the lumber dries uniformly without the damage of case-hardening and honey-combing.

After the lumber is properly "cured," it is worked into flooring on the most modern and improved flooring machines obtainable, great care being used in selecting and training the men who operate these machines. Our workmen take great pride in upholding the reputation RITTER OAK FLOORING has gained through skillful and accurate manufacture.

A mechanic stands at the discharging end of each flooring machine and tests with a steel gauge the pieces as they come from the machine. If even the slightest variation of thickness or width is found, the machine is immediately stopped and properly adjusted.

The flooring travels from the machine on a belt conveyor to an inspector or grader who examines and marks it as to grade; it then passes on to the chief grader, who checks up the work of the first inspector, thus insuring uniform grading.

The flooring is then bundled and conveyed to steam heated, ventilated warm-rooms, where an even temperature and proper humidity are maintained. Hence the flooring is not affected by outside weather conditions. From these storage rooms it is shipped to the trade in box cars which have been carefully examined for the purpose of insuring

shipment only in cars which will properly protect the flooring from the elements while in transit. Every effort is made so to handle the bundles and load the cars as to assure that the flooring will reach the customer in first class condition.

THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE between RITTER OAK FLOORING which is made from mild textured, fine grained Appalachian Oak and flooring made by the manufacturer who must use hard textured lowland Oak.

Because Appalachian Oak is of much smoother texture and finer grain than the hard lowland Oak, it is more readily and uniformly kiln-dried, and hence, the finished flooring is not so susceptible to expansion and contraction due to the absorption of moisture.

The particular builder, to be assured of getting even textured, fine grained Oak, will specify RITTER OAK FLOORING. After once using it, he will not be satisfied with a substitute.

Because RITTER OAK FLOORING is easily laid and easily scraped, a uniform, even surface, free from waves, is readily obtained, thus assuring a smooth finish and handsome appearance.

Each species of Oak possesses its individual color and texture, the lowland Oak being much coarser than Oak grown in the Appalachian area, where the species are few.

One of the most noticeable and valuable characteristics of RITTER OAK FLOORING is its uniform color. This uniform color is the result of the use of the very limited number of species of Oak found in the Appalachians. Other flooring manufacturers, who get their raw material from various sources, or from a timber territory producing a greater number of species naturally, receive in the lumber from which their flooring is produced a large number of species, each with its individual color and texture.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE RITTER OAK FLOORING

Aside from even color and accurate manufacture, which are characteristics of RITTER OAK FLOORING, it can be readily distinguished by the brand which is impressed into the wood on the back of each piece.

---

W. M. RITTER LBR. CO.

---

Look for this brand on the back of every piece of flooring.



## STANDARD MEASUREMENTS OF TONGUED AND GROOVED OAK FLOORING

$\frac{13}{16}$  in. thickness, widths  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. face and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. face.

$\frac{3}{8}$  in. thickness, widths  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. face and 2 in. face.

## STANDARD WEIGHTS AND COUNTS OF TONGUED AND GROOVED OAK FLOORING

$\frac{13}{16}$  in. x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. face, 2000 lbs. per 1000 feet. Counted 1 in. x 3 in.

$\frac{13}{16}$  in. x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. face, 2000 lbs. per 1000 feet. Counted 1 in. x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in.

$\frac{3}{8}$  in. x 2 in. face, 1000 lbs. per 1000 feet. Counted 1 in. x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.

$\frac{3}{8}$  in. x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. face, 1000 lbs. per 1000 feet. Counted 1 in. x 2 in.

## HOW TO ARRIVE AT THE AMOUNT OF TONGUED AND GROOVED OAK FLOORING REQUIRED

To cover a certain space, figure the number of square feet, which means the width of the room in feet multiplied by its length in feet; for instance: a room 12 feet wide by 15 feet long would contain twelve times fifteen or 180 square feet. In addition to 3% for mechanic's waste in laying the floor, add to the square feet of surface to be covered, the following percentages:

50 %.....for  $\frac{13}{16}$  in. x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %.....for  $\frac{13}{16}$  in. x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in.

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %.....for  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

25 %.....for  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. x 2 in.

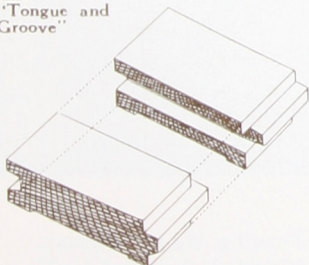
The above figures are based on laying flooring straight across the room. Proper allowances should be made for bay windows, hearths, and other projections.

- 3 Plain-Sawed  
Tongued and  
Grooved  
8 End-Matched  
Oak Flooring.

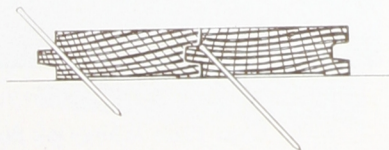


- 13 Quarter-Sawed  
Tongued and  
Grooved  
16 End-Matched  
Oak Flooring.

End  
"Tongue and  
Groove"



Blind Nailing







Ritter Clear Plain White Oak Strip Flooring,  $1\frac{3}{16}$  x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.  
Strip flooring is used in the majority of moderately priced dwellings.



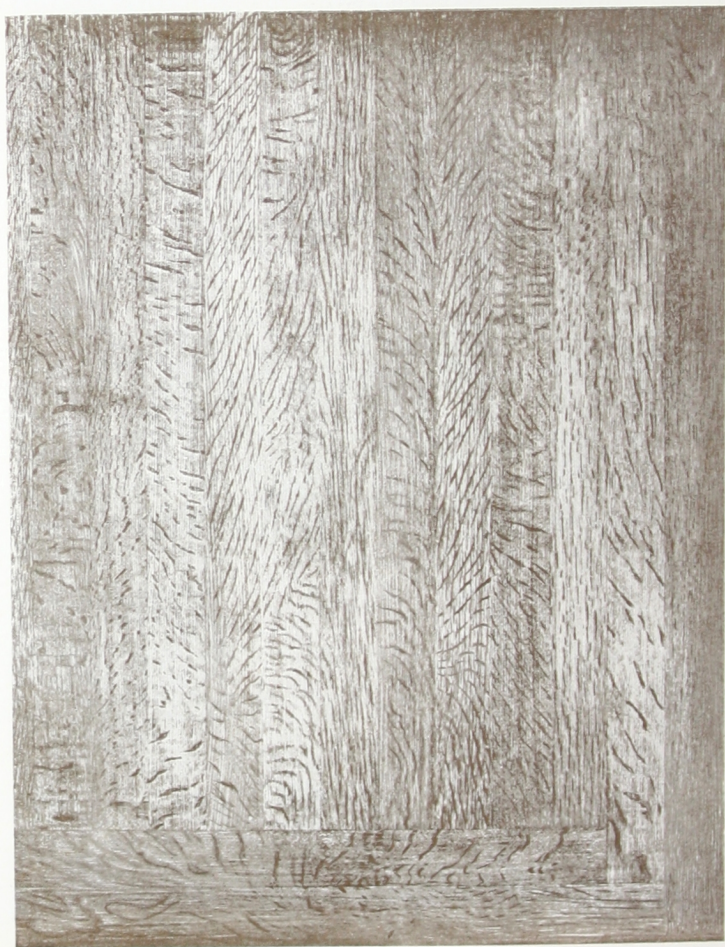
The charm of this Columbus, Ohio, home is greatly enhanced by its Ritter Appalachian Oak Floors — strip pattern.

Miller & Reeves, Architects.

E. J. Scarlett, Builder.







Ritter Clear Quartered White Oak Strip Flooring,  $\frac{13}{16} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.  
Quartered Oak Floors are used where something more elaborate than the plain-sawed oak is desired.



Ritter Clear Quartered White Oak Parquetry Squares,  $\frac{13}{16}$  x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  x  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Parquetry floors can be laid in a variety of designs. They are used in fine houses and apartments. Also manufactured in plain-sawed oak.





Ritter Clear Quartered White Oak Herringbone [[Flooring,  
 $1\frac{3}{16}$  x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  x 18 inches.

A unique and pleasing effect is obtained with Parquetry flooring laid in Herringbone style. Also manufactured in plain-sawed oak.



Ball room of the beautiful Hotel Ambassador, New York City, floored throughout with Ritter Appalachian Oak Flooring (Herringbone Pattern).

Architects —  
Warren and Stetmore.

Builders —  
Thompson-Sterrett.





## RULES FOR GRADING RITTER OAK FLOORING

### PLAIN AND QUARTERED TONGUED AND GROOVED

#### Clear

Shall have one face practically free of defects, except  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. of bright sap. The question of color shall not be considered.

Lengths 2 ft. and longer.

If a  $\frac{5}{8}$  ft. average length is maintained, as much as 20% under 4 ft. may be included.

#### Sap Clear

Shall have one face practically free of defects, but will admit unlimited bright sap. The question of color shall not be considered. Lengths in this grade to be 1 ft. 6 in. and longer.

If a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. average length is maintained, as much as 25% under 4 ft. may be included.

#### Select

Will admit pin worm holes, very slight imperfection in dressing, or sound, bright knots not larger than an ordinary pencil knot; there must not, however, be more than one of any of the above defects for each three feet of length. Bright sap admitted without limit.

Lengths 1 ft. 6 in. and longer.

If a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. average length is maintained, as much as 35% under 4 ft. may be included.

#### Star

May contain bright sap without limit, pin worm holes somewhat in excess of the number admitted in the Select grade, and may include flag worm holes, not to exceed two for each three feet or fraction thereof of length, the wood surrounding which is but slightly discolored.

Lengths 1 ft. 6 in. and longer.

If a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. average length is maintained, as much as 35% under 4 ft. may be included.

### No. 1 Common

May contain pin worm holes, spot worm holes if surrounded by sound wood, and any other smooth, sound tight defects which will enable one to lay a sound, serviceable floor without cutting.

Lengths 1 ft. 6 in. and longer.

If a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. average length is maintained, as much as 45% under 4 ft. may be included.

### No. 2 Common

This grade is composed of pieces containing defects too large or too rough to go into the Common grade. This grade will lay a serviceable floor with slight cutting.

Lengths 1 ft. and longer.

If a 3 ft. average length is maintained, as much as 60% under 4 ft. may be included.

---

## NOTE FOR ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

In the standard rules for grading Oak Flooring consideration is given to such imperfections as knots, worm holes, sap, splits, and similar defects, but no consideration is given to the grain, texture and color of the flooring. Therefore, to be assured of beautiful Oak Floors, it is necessary to specify, in addition to the grade desired, that the flooring be manufactured of **Highland Oak**. The easiest and safest way is to ask for **Ritter Appalachian Highland Oak Flooring**.



## RULES FOR GRADING RITTER OAK FLOORING

### PLAIN AND QUARTERED, $\frac{5}{16}$ INCH SQUARE EDGE

This flooring is made with square edges and square ends and is graded under the grading rules for tongued and grooved flooring except:

- (a) The lengths and average lengths are as indicated on this page.
- (b) Square edge flooring is to be measured and sold surface measure.
- (c) It is bundled 24 pieces to a bundle and tied with a round wire.
- (d) Figure weight on  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. at 1250 lbs. per thousand board feet.

The lengths are to be:

#### Clear

4 ft. and longer.  
Average length 5 ft. 6 in.

#### Select

3 ft. and longer.  
Average 4 ft. 9 in.  
Not over 20% under 4 ft.

#### Sap Clear

4 ft. and longer.  
Average length 5 ft.

#### No. 1 Common

2 ft. and longer.  
Average length 3 ft. 9 in.  
Not over 40% under 4 ft.

NOTE—Write us for full particulars about Ritter  $\frac{13}{16}$  in. tongued and grooved Parquetry Oak Flooring.

# **RULES FOR GRADING RITTER MAPLE, BEECH, AND BIRCH FLOORING**

## **MAPLE FLOORING**

Oak flooring grades apply.

## **BEECH FLOORING**

### **Clear Red**

Sap admitted on the back, but face must show red wood only, and be practically free from defects.

Lengths 2 ft. and longer.

If a 5 ft. average length is maintained, as much as 20% under 4 ft. may be included.

### **Clear**

Same as clear grade in Oak, except sap is no defect.

### **Select**

Same as Select grade in Oak.

### **No. 1 Common**

Same as No. 1 Common grade in Oak.

### **No. 2 Common**

Same as No. 2 Common grade in Oak.

## **BIRCH FLOORING**

Same as corresponding grades in Beech.



## HANDLING RITTER OAK FLOORING

RITTER OAK FLOORING leaves our steam heated warm-rooms in perfect condition. It has been carefully manufactured and cared for and has become a valuable commodity deserving of proper handling both in distributing and consuming channels. Under no circumstances should its liability to damage through careless treatment be disregarded. In the hands of the truckman, dealer, and floor layer it should be valued for its condition and intrinsic worth. Otherwise, unnecessary damage and needless loss will occur.

As already said, RITTER OAK FLOORING, after it has been manufactured, is stored in steam heated, well ventilated warm-rooms and is shipped only in selected box cars in order to insure its reaching the dealer in good condition. It should **not** be unloaded in rainy weather. If necessary to unload when the atmosphere is damp, each truck load should be covered with a tarpaulin while enroute from car to warehouse. Due to the tendency of any properly prepared flooring to absorb moisture, causing swelling and impairment of accuracy of the mill work, RITTER OAK FLOORING should never be piled in open sheds. If it is so piled it is subjected to moisture, and, regardless of how tight or how well a floor layer may put in flooring which has absorbed moisture, cracks will develop when it becomes thoroughly dry. The  $\frac{13}{16}$  in. Oak Flooring is made in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. face widths and it should be exactly of that width when laid. The  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Oak Flooring is made in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. and 2 in. face widths and should be exactly of that width when laid. If  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. flooring is found, through careless handling, to have absorbed moisture and to measure  $2\frac{5}{16}$  in. instead of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in., the result will be that cracks  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. wide will develop between the strips after the moisture evaporates from the flooring. If Oak Flooring measures even a small fraction over its standard width, it is indicative that it has absorbed moisture, is not thoroughly dry, *and should never be laid in that condition.* Dealers should preferably store Oak Flooring in steam heated warehouses, so ventilated as to be free from an excessive amount of moisture. If such warehouses are not available, the flooring should be stored in an enclosed place as well ventilated and as far above the ground as possible.

Flooring should never be laid in a new building while the basement, walls, or plaster are damp; in fact, the laying of flooring should be one of the last steps in building operations. It should not be laid until

after the heat has been on for some time and after the plastering is dry. Nor should it be laid until windows and doors are put in and all other openings closed.

If  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. flooring be laid during the summer months when the weather is usually warm and dry, the house in which it is laid should be heated at least once a week with the coming of the first fall chill and dampness. This is particularly necessary with thin flooring, which, because of its light structure, is more easily affected by atmospheric changes. Through prolonged wet, cold spells, even in the summer, sufficient heat should be introduced from time to time properly to care for the flooring.

## CAUTION

### PLEASE KEEP THIS FLOORING DRY

It is KILN DRIED and was in perfect condition when shipped from our STEAM HEATED warm-room at manufacturing point. Moisture will injure it.

It should be stored in closed sheds and never exposed to rain or dampness nor delivered to new buildings until the walls, sub-floors and interiors are dry and windows and outside doors put in.

W. M. RITTER LUMBER COMPANY  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Caution notices like the one reproduced above are placed on RITTER FLOORING to insure proper handling after shipment.

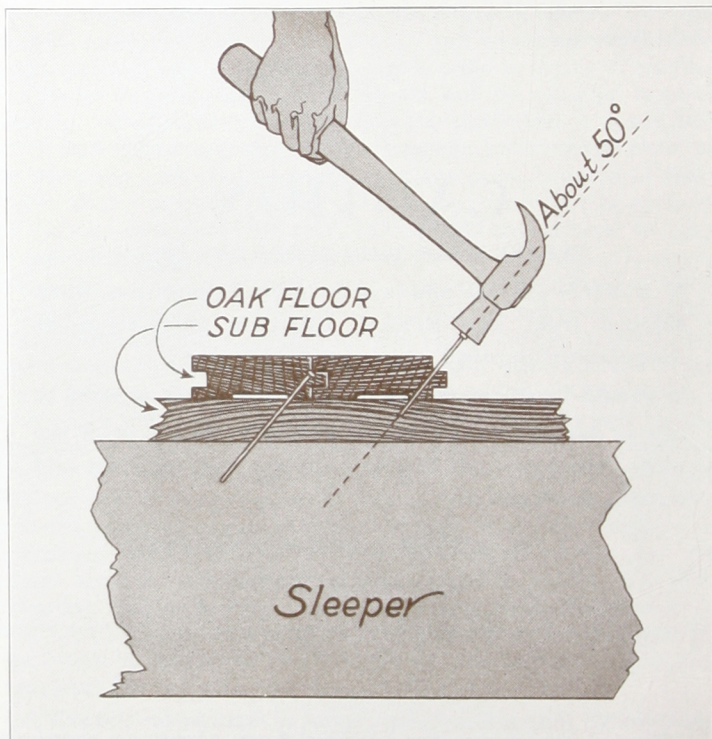


## LAYING RITTER OAK FLOORING

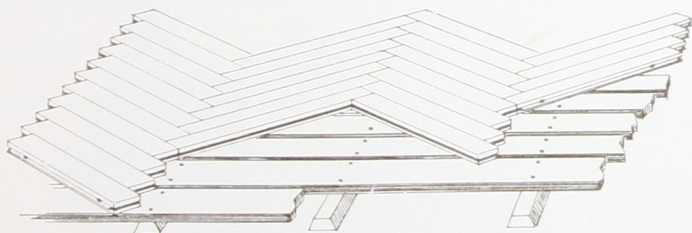
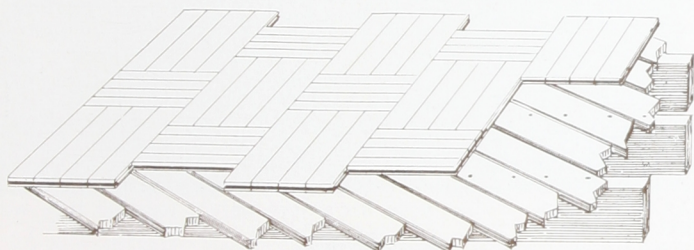
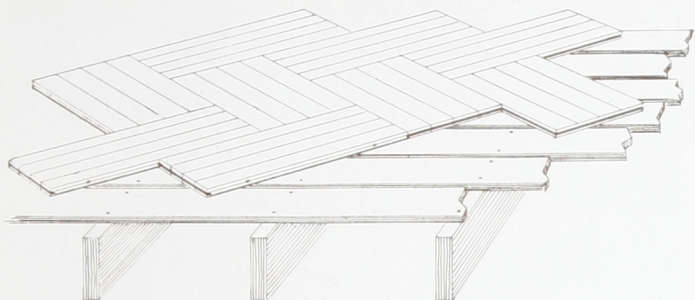
The laying of RITTER OAK FLOORING is not difficult. Any **first-class** carpenter can lay it satisfactorily; however, judgment and care are necessary to produce the best results. Because of the extreme care used in manufacturing, storing, and shipping, RITTER OAK FLOORING will be found to lay evenly and easily with a minimum of effort and cost.

A sub-floor should be used under  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Oak Flooring and is desirable under flooring of  $\frac{13}{16}$  in. thickness. This sub-floor should be of

(Continued on page 28)



How Oak Flooring Should Be Nailed



### How To Lay Parquetry Flooring Over Sub-Floors

In laying sub-floors the boards should never be laid in such a manner that the Oak Flooring strips will run in the same direction as the sub-floor. The above illustrations show how this is handled in the laying of Parquetry Flooring. By having the pattern lines of the Oak Floor cross the lines of the sub-floor, the maximum strength is obtained.



one inch boards, four to eight inches wide, surfaced on both sides to a uniform thickness. These boards should be laid diagonally from  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart. Kiln-dried lumber is the best for this purpose. Tongued and grooved or shiplap sub-floors may be used (although they are not the best for buildings of fireproof construction, because of dampness from the concrete); but if kiln-dried, should not be driven too closely together.

If the flooring is laid over a damp basement, cellar, or other damp place, or if a thoroughly dry sub-floor cannot be obtained, the use of damp-proof paper between the sub-floor and the oak floor is most important. Do not use ordinary building paper or rosin sized paper. The quantity required is small, and the very best quality of damp-proof stock should be used. Where sound-proof results are desired a heavy deadening felt is recommended.

It is very important to leave about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. space on all sides between the floor and the base board, to allow for expansion in event the flooring absorbs moisture. This opening is covered by the quarter-round or base moulding.

Flooring, under no circumstances, should be laid parallel with the sub-flooring. After laying and nailing three or four pieces, use a short piece of hardwood 2 x 4 placed against the tongue and drive it up. Care should be taken in driving up  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. flooring not to break the tongue, which is fragile. Also, do not drive up excessively tight. Special attention is given to the end-matching of RITTER OAK FLOORING and if the ends are driven tightly together they will match perfectly.

The nailing of flooring is very important. All tongued and grooved flooring should be blind nailed. The best floor made can be spoiled by the use of improper nails. Practice has shown that the following will give the best results:

$\frac{13}{16}$  in. T. & G. flooring — 7d cut casing nails, spaced not more than 16 in.

$\frac{3}{8}$  in. T. & G. flooring — 4d wire finishing nails, spaced not more than 8 in.

Some floor layers prefer 3d cement coated wire nails for  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. flooring.

## SCRAPING RITTER OAK FLOORING

After the Oak flooring is laid and thoroughly swept, it should be expertly scraped to insure a perfectly polished surface. Scraping can be done by hand or by one of the many types of power scraping machines that are generally used. Hand scraping gives a superior finish, and if the work is carefully done, sandpapering is unnecessary. If the scraping machine is used, the floor should be thoroughly gone over with No. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  sandpaper to obtain the best results in finishing. After this, the floor should again be swept clean, and the dust removed with a soft cloth. It is then ready for the finish.



Evergreen Farms Restaurant on Roosevelt Boulevard, near Philadelphia, Pa., floored with Ritter Appalachian Oak Parquetry Flooring — block pattern.

R. E. White, Architect. J. S. Rogers Company, Builders.



## DIRECTIONS FOR FINISHING OAK FLOORS

The *Clear* grade of Oak Flooring gives best results, where a light natural Oak finish is desired, by using a natural Oak paste filler tinted slightly with French Yellow Ochre. For the *Select* and *Sap Clear* grades a light golden Oak filler should be used. Natural filler may be used and colored to the desired shade with burnt umber or Van Dyke Brown. This will be found more satisfactory than the ready colored fillers and affords a better chance of getting the desired shade. By using a darker shade of filler the *Select* and *Sap Clear* grades may be made to have the same appearance as *Clear* grade, except that the color is slightly darker. *No. 1 Common* grade should be filled somewhat darker than the *Select* grade. With a little care and judgment in laying and finishing this grade, splendid results can be obtained.

**STEPS IN THE PROCESS OF FINISHING** — Treat the floor with a good paste wood filler of desired tone, to fill the pores and crevices. Mix filler with gasoline or turpentine to about the consistency of varnish or cream and apply with a brush, doing not more than one average sized room at a time so as to admit its being rubbed off before hardening. Allow about fifteen minutes, or until the gloss has left the filler, then rub off with excelsior or burlap, rubbing across the grain of the wood first, then wiping thoroughly clean with the grain of the wood. Allow from twelve to twenty hours for filler to harden before applying finish. A good paste wood filler is the prime essential to a successful finish. Never use a liquid filler on any floor. After the filler has hardened sufficiently the floor may then be finished with either shellac, varnish, or wax. A temperature of about 70 degrees should be maintained to insure thorough drying of filler and finishes.

**SHELLAC FINISH** — Apply two coats of **pure white shellac**, of medium consistency, and when hard, polish with one coat of prepared wax of standard brand. This makes a very hard finish that is easily kept clean and can be completed in about six hours time.

**VARNISH FINISH** — Use a good standard make of floor varnish. Apply two coats, first coat having been thinned with about 10% turpentine, and second coat full body as it comes in the can. When hard, this may be either waxed or rubbed to a dull finish with pumice stone and oil.

**WAX FINISH** — Apply two coats of any standard brand of prepared floor wax and polish thoroughly with weighted polishing brush. This finish should have an application of wax about every six months, and if properly cared for will improve with age and outwear any other finish. The renewing may be easily done by anyone. A piece of carpet, felt or a soft clean cloth may be used instead of the weighted brush for polishing wax.

**DARK SHADES OF FINISH** — The modern tendency of architects and the better class of decorators is toward the use of darker colors, shaded to harmonize with the trim and furnishing of the room. **RITTER OAK FLOORING**, owing to its smooth, uniform texture and grain, takes the stains most evenly, whereby the best artistic results are obtained. To obtain the best results in the darker finishes, an acid or spirit stain should be used. (These are obtainable at any good paint store.)

The most popular shades are soft browns, grays, and taupe. If the desirable color cannot be readily obtained, we suggest the following formulas:

**GRAY OR TAUPE** — Nigrosene (water soluble), about 1 teaspoonful to one gallon of hot water; add one grain of picric acid to get gray, and if a color resembling taupe is desired, add one grain also of Bismarck brown. See that these colors are thoroughly dissolved before using. Apply sparingly with a sponge dampened in the stain. If a darker shade is desired, add more nigrosene; and if a lighter color is wanted, thin with water. A little experimental work may be necessary to get the right tone or shade. Allow stain to dry thoroughly and then rub down with steel wool instead of sandpaper, apply two coats of white shellac, wax, and polish.

Before applying stain to floor it should be tried out on some small pieces of flooring. These should be finished in order to determine the results; also these stains should be used only by a first class, painstaking finisher. Whenever a suitable stain can be purchased already made up, we recommend its use rather than the ones suggested above, although these colors are just as good if mixed and used properly.



## HOW TO CARE FOR RITTER OAK FLOORS

For the daily cleaning of floors use a good floor mop made especially for taking up the dust, one that contains no oil, as the oil will soon darken the surface.

For either shellacked, waxed or varnished floors, when necessary to clean thoroughly, wash carefully with a mild suds of Ivory soap and warm water, being careful not to get the floors too wet, sponge off all water and wipe as dry as possible before rewaxing. Do not use strong alkalis, soaps or cleansing powders, except in cases of extreme necessity, as these will injure the finish.

Never use oil or kerosene for cleaning. Waxed floors may be cleaned with gasoline, but as this is a rather dangerous method, we do not recommend it.

The best methods for caring for the different finishes are described as follows:

**SHELLAC FINISH** — If water has been spilled upon the floor, turning it white in places, moisten a soft cloth with a little denatured alcohol, rub the spots lightly, and they should immediately disappear. Do not repeat this operation too often, however, or the finish will be entirely removed. If the finish has become so soiled that it is undesirable to remove it entirely, first scrub the floor with a standard brand of varnish remover (this is preferable to alcohol, as it does not evaporate as rapidly and insures sufficient time to remove the Shellac, thus allowing a smooth even tone) and then bleach it with oxalic acid (one teaspoon to one gallon of water) — never use lye, as it turns the wood black and ruins the surface permanently. After all moisture has evaporated the finish may be applied as directed on pages 30 and 31.

**VARNISH FINISH** — If the finish has become badly worn, thoroughly scrub it with a brush, a good cleanser and water (never flood the floor). After it has dried out, apply a thin coat of varnish; or in event that time cannot be allowed for the varnish to dry, wax may be substituted.

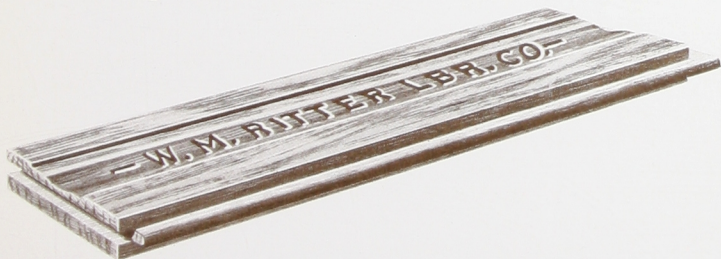
**WAX FINISH** — Waxed floors should be dusted with a broom covered with canton flannel. Keep a can of wax on hand, and should the finish become worn in the doorways or elsewhere, apply a thin coat, rubbing well into the wood. Allow the wax to dry for one hour and then polish thoroughly. Before rewaxing the floor, scrub it thoroughly with turpentine and a piece of cheesecloth.

## ECONOMICAL USE OF RITTER OAK FLOORING

With the wide use of rugs in both homes and offices, an economical method is to have the center portion of the room laid with RITTER OAK FLOORING of a less expensive grade, employing a better grade in the border. When the rug is laid, the visible portion of the floor will then be of the very best appearance, at less initial cost. A room measuring 10 x 12 ft. for example, may have a border 2 feet wide of Clear (first quality), either Plain or Quartered; and in the center section measuring about 6 x 8 ft., the Select plain grade can be used. This procedure represents a saving of 15 to 40% as against using all of the best grade. Care in finishing the Select Grade will make it closely resemble the Clear. This economical method is a common practice among experienced builders. Thin flooring measuring  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. thick by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. or 2 in. face can be laid over old floors in old homes and over unfinished sub-floors in new homes at minimum cost. This type of flooring requires less of a cash outlay than carpets or many other types of wood floors and gives satisfactory service.

## PROFITABLE WORK FOR CARPENTERS

Carpenters, contractors and floor layers find it profitable, during slack periods, when outside work is quiet to solicit jobs in old homes for laying the  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Oak flooring over worn floors. In addition to being profitable, such work is interesting. Artistic designs may be made by selecting strips for figure. The winter season is preferable for laying this thin stock over old floors, which are then thoroughly dry and in good condition to receive it. It is important that old floors be level before installing Oak floors.



**Branded for Your Protection**



The Republican Publishing Co.  
Hamilton, Ohio

